Survey of oil and gas in Rajasthan

†68. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gas and oil reserves have been explored in different districts of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details of the areas where survey work has been completed indicating the quality of gas and oil reserves explored therein;

(c) whether the Central Government has finalized any scheme for installation of an oil refinery in some areas of Rajasthan;

(d) if so, the area where an oil refinery may be installed with the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In Rajasthan, presently 13 oil/gas exploration blocks are under operation in PSC regime falling in the districts of Barmer, Jalore, Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Ganga Nagar, Churu, Kota, Jhalawar, Jodhpur, Hanuman Garh, Bundi, Chittor Garh, Bhilwara and Baran. In addition, ONGC and OIL are also licensees in pre-NELP blocks in the districts of Barmer, Jaisalmer, Bikaner and Ganga Nagar in Rajasthan.

In the PSC regime, in two Pre NELP blocks, namely RJ-ON-90/1 and RJ-ON/6, a total of 78.99 MMT ultimate recoverable oil and gas reserves have been aggregated. In nomination blocks, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) have established 1.76 BCM and 5.51 BCM of gas reserves respectively.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Consequent on de-licensing of refinery sector in 1998, a refinery may be set up anywhere in India by a Private or Public Sector Enterprises. Therefore it is a Public or a Private Sector Enterprise to decide on setting up a refinery based on techno-economic feasibility.

The proposal for setting up a refinery at Barmer in Rajasthan is under the consideration of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)/Mangalore Refinery and Petro-chemicals Limited (MRPL), a subsidiary of ONGC.

ONGC/MRPL has reported that economic viability of this high investment requires fiscal incentives and other benefits from the Government of Rajasthan. ONGC/MRPL have requested the State Government to consider the required fiscal incentives and support for the viability of huge investments in the Well- head Refinery Project. Currently, ONGC and Government of Rajasthan are in a process of discussion regarding fiscal incentives to be extended by Government of Rajasthan to make the refinery investment viable.

Allotment of petrol pumps and LPG dealership

†69. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether preference is given only to such persons, pension holders, freedom fighters/ dependants as recognized by the Central Government in the allotment of dealerships of petrol pumps and LPG and that persons, pension holders, freedom fighters/dependants

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.